

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A portable media device, comprising:
a memory configured to store digital content;
a wireless transceiver configured to wirelessly transmit and receive digital content;
an output configured to render digital content; and
a controller coupled to the memory, the wireless transceiver and the output, the controller being configured to authorize wireless transmission of a transfer file to a third party device in accordance with meta-data associated with a particular digital content and without regard to any identifier of the third party device, the transfer file including meta-data containing permissions information restricting rendering of the particular digital content by the third party device.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to control playback of a given digital content stored in the memory based upon a user license confirmation.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to confirm a user license for the [[a]] given digital content based upon meta-data associated with the given digital content.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The device of claim 3, wherein the controller is configured to confirm the [[a]] user license based upon a comparison of a user identifier embedded in the meta-data associated with the given digital content with a user identifier stored in the memory.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to limit playback of the given digital content in response to a failed user license confirmation.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The device of claim 5, wherein the controller is configured to enable playback of only a sample of the given digital content in response to a failed user license confirmation.

Claim 7 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to direct received digital content selectively to unrestricted memory storage or to restricted memory storage based upon a user license confirmation.

Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to direct licensed digital content to unrestricted memory storage and to direct unlicensed digital content to restricted memory storage.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to restrict storage of unlicensed digital works to a predetermined quantity.

Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to enable wireless transmission of digital content stored in unrestricted memory and to prevent wireless transmission of digital content stored in restricted memory.

Claim 11 (original): The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to decrypt encrypted digital content with a cryptographic key stored in the memory.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A digital content distribution system, comprising:
two or more portable media devices each comprising:

- a memory for storing digital content;
- a transceiver for wirelessly transmitting digital content to and wirelessly receiving digital content from another portable media device;
- an output configured to render digital content; and

a controller coupled to the memory, the wireless transceiver and the output, the controller being configured to authorize wireless transmission of a transfer file to a third party device in accordance with meta-data associated with a particular digital content and without regard to any identifier of the third party device, the transfer file including meta-data containing permissions information restricting rendering of the particular digital content by the third party device; and

a license manager configured to allocate an incentive having an exchangeable pecuniary value to a first user of a first one of the portable media devices licensed to transmit the [[a]] particular digital content in response to receipt of an indication of a purchase of a license for the particular digital content by a second user of a second one of the portable media devices who received a copy of the particular digital content from the first user.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The system of claim 12, further comprising a licensed distributor of the particular digital content configured to embed in meta-data associated with the particular digital content an identifier corresponding to the second user in response to the purchase of the license for the particular digital content.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate the incentive ~~incentives~~ based upon meta-data associated with the particular purchased digital content.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate an incentive to a digital content distributor in response to a purchase of a the corresponding digital content by a user of one of the [[a]] portable media devices storing meta-data with an embedded distributor identifier corresponding to the digital content distributor.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate an incentive to a particular user of one of the [[a]] portable media devices containing meta-data restricting playback of a given digital content in response to a purchase of a license for the given ~~corresponding~~ digital content by the particular user.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The system of claim 12, further comprising a licensed distributor configured to transmit to one or more of the portable media devices meta-data associated with broadcasted digital content and containing an embedded distributor identifier.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The system of claim 17, wherein the license manager is configured to allocate an incentive to the licensed distributor in response to a purchase of the broadcasted ~~corresponding~~ digital content by a user of one of the ~~[[a]]~~ portable media devices storing the meta-data with the embedded distributor identifier.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured to allocate incentives based upon meta-data associated with the broadcasted ~~purchased~~ digital content.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured to allocate an incentive to a user of one of the ~~[[a]]~~ portable media devices containing restricted playback of the broadcasted digital content in response to a purchase of the broadcasted ~~corresponding~~ digital content by the user.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to control wireless transmission and rendering of the ~~[[a]]~~ particular digital content based upon a comparison of a user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the particular digital content with a user identifier stored in the memory.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 21, wherein the controller is configured to allow playback of the particular digital content subject to at least one playback restriction in response to a determination that the user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the particular digital content fails to match any user identifier stored in the memory.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 22, wherein the at least one playback restriction corresponds to a threshold number of playback times after

which only a sample of the particular digital content is renderable by the portable media device until after the controller determines that the user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the particular digital content matches a user identifier stored in the memory.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 21, wherein the controller is configured to disable wireless transmission of the particular digital content in response to a determination that the user identifier embedded in meta-data associated with the particular digital content fails to match any user identifier stored in the memory.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to assemble a transfer file comprising an encryption key for decrypting encrypted digital content, to encrypt the transfer file with an encryption key received from a second portable media device, and to cause the encrypted transfer file to be transmitted wirelessly to the second portable media device.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to change a license status identifier associated with the [[a]] particular digital content from unlicensed to licensed in response to a determination that a content identifier associated with the particular digital content matches a content identifier stored in the memory and corresponding to a previously licensed digital content file.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to transmit a user identifier assigned to the portable media device to a license manager after each transmission of digital content information from the portable media device to one or more other devices.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 1, wherein the meta-data in the transfer file is encrypted with an encryption key transmitted by the third party device and received by the portable media device.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 1, wherein the transfer file includes an encrypted copy of the particular digital content.

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Serial No. : 09/741,725
Filed : December 19, 2000
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Attorney's Docket No.: 10004124-1
Amendment dated Oct. 18, 2005
Reply to Office action dated September 14, 2005

Claim 30 (previously presented): The portable media device of claim 29, wherein the copy of the particular digital content is encrypted with a content key, and the content key and the particular digital content are assembled into a content package encrypted with an encryption key transmitted by the third party device and received by the portable media device to form the transfer file.